

11. **expletive** (ěk'splī tīv) [*ex* < L. "out"]

*n.* An exclamation or oath, especially obscene.

Although we couldn't speak their language, we could tell they were uttering angry **expletives** at us.

**expletory**, *adj.*

## EXERCISE 5A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. to **satiate** one's hunger a. vaunt b. satisfy c. lessen d. fail to satisfy e. duplicate
2. regard as a **microcosm** a. substitute b. reduced version c. distortion d. vacuity e. minor problem
3. to **implement** a plan a. enlarge b. carry out c. form d. criticize e. negate
4. utter a loud **expletive** a. insult b. belch c. monologue d. exclamation e. refusal
5. inhabited by primitive **microbes** a. insects b. recluses c. microcosms d. humans e. organisms

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

6. to feel **replete** a. satiated b. sentimental c. empty d. regretful e. reclusive
7. a(n) **minuscule** portion a. tasteful b. enormous c. unilateral d. thrifty e. delicious
8. a **tenuous** friendship a. new b. totalitarian c. firm d. weak e. sensitive
9. a(n) **compliant** nature a. obedient b. lazy c. rebellious d. frightened e. catholic
10. concerned with **minutiae** a. oneself b. petty facts c. time d. nihilism e. large concepts

## EXERCISE 5B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. **Minuscule** particles of frost reflected the sun's light.  
 b. Only a **minuscule** proportion of students today studies Greek.  
 c. Rural Americans often attended a one-room **minuscule**.  
 d. This film can detect even a **minuscule** ray of light.